

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 OIC-04 EB-11 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25

RSR-01 /200 W

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R 300611 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4059

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4988

PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: FAO EAGR

SUBJECT: FAO 17 TH SESSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON RICE

REF : NEW DELHI 4781

1. INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON RICE MET IN NEW DELHI
APRIL 23-27. BESIDES PARTICIPANTS REPORTED REFTEL, BRAZIL
ATTENDED AND MADE COUNTRY STATEMENT. OFFICER OF BELGIAN
EMBASSY NEW DELHI ALSO ACCREDITED, BUT NEVER TOOK SEAT.
RAM SARAN (INDIA) ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SESSION; V. BOONKITTICHAROAN
(THAILAND), AND A. SANT (FRANCE) CHOSEN FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN,
AND VICE- CHAIRMAN, RESPECTIVELY.

2. CHANGED WORLD RICE SITUATION FROM SURPLUSES OF 71/72
AND PREVIOUS YEARS TO TIGHT SUPPLY SITUATION OF 72/73
SET TONE OF MEETING AS GROUP MOVED THROUGH AGENDA WITHOUT
DIFFICULTY. LIVELIEST EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE ON ISSUES OF
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STOCK POLICY AND RELATED QUESTION
OF WHETHER GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION
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(AGENDA ITEM 5) STILL VALID IN TIME OF RICE DEFICIT.

3. DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STOCKS TOOK PLACE UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4 AFTER BANGLA DESH OBSERVER DELEGATION PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF RICE BANK. FAO REPRESENTATIVE A. G. LEEKS REPLIED BY INFORMING BANGLA DESH ABOUT ECAFE ASIAN RICE TRADE FUND. (IN REMARKS OPENING SESSION LEEKS DISCUSSED RICE TRADE FUND, SAYING THAT FAO FAVORS IT.) AUSTRALIA EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF TRADE DIVERSION AND DISCRIMINATION UNDER RICE TRADE FUND, AND FAO UECRETARIAT (DUTIA) OUTLINED DIFFICULTIES OF SETTING UP A BANK, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF SHORT RICE SUPPLY.

4. DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS BETWEEN EXPORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES EMERGED IN DISCUSSION OF GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION (ADOPTED AT CCP RICE STUDY GROUP 15 TH SESSION, ROME MAY 1971). IMPORTING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BANGLADESH AND HONG KONG, TOOK LINE THAT GUIDELINES WERE DRAFTED TO DEAL WITH RICE SURPLUS AND ARE INADEQUATE IN CURRENT DEFICIT SITUATION. SECRETARIAT SAID LANGUAGE TO EFFECT THAT DIFFERENCE OF VIEW EXISTS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE REPORT.

5. NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD IN ROME A YEAR HENCE. IN DISCUSSION OF COST OF HOLDING SESSION AWAY FROM FAO HEADQUARTERS, LEEKS SAID INDIANS PAID COSTS IN NEW DELHI, WITH POSSIBLE SAVING TO FAO OVER WHAT COST WOULD HAVE BEEN IN ROME. MOYNIHAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE04988
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730452/aaaaxpc.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NEW DELHI 4781
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980203
Subject: FAO 17 TH SESSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON RICE
TAGS: EAGR, IN, FAO
To: IO
ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005